

What is claimed is:

1. A method of preparing a neutral complex of essential trace elements and a dicarboxylic alpha amino acid, comprising:  
mixing a water soluble monobasic and amino acid dicarboxylic acid with a water soluble  
5 metal salt of the trace element in salt form;  
adjusting the pH to neutral in a manner to avoid formation of insoluble metal hydroxides;  
and,  
quickly cooling the reactants to form small crystals of the neutral complexes.